

May 29, 2001

98-1201**VIA FED EX**

Mr. Ron Parver  
Cable Services Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW - Room 4-A822  
Washington, DC 20554

**RECEIVED**

JUN 13 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Parver:

Enclosed is Cablevision Systems Corporation's response to the "Cable System Capacity and Retransmission Consent Agreements" Survey.

Cablevision Systems Corporation operates one regional cluster in the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut metropolitan area (New York DMA). With minor hyper-local exceptions, our network, technology, and service offerings plans are uniform throughout the market. As a result, we have provided one response throughout this survey to include the 4.2 million homes and just over 3 million subscribers in our service area.

In 1997, Cablevision began a five-year plan to upgrade the network infrastructure throughout our region to a fully two-way 750 minimum MHz platform. As we rebuilt, we have been aggressively rolling out our high-speed data offering. Cablevision will launch digital television with the deployment of our advanced digital set top box and interactive services in the fall of this year. The service has been in beta testing and will be tested in a select number of homes this summer. Designed and engineered in cooperation with Sony Corporation, the digital set top box will offer customers a new television experience with interactive television, high definition television, video-on-demand and IP telephony.

The bandwidth for downstream transmission not allocated to analog television (528 MHz) or data and telephony services (24 MHz) will be allocated among various digital offerings - high definition (HDTV) programming, video-on-demand, interactive television, digital sports, digital music, and standard definition digital television. The company's digital plans represent our current best estimate of bandwidth needs and allocations. However, the plans allow for reallocation of bandwidth among the different digital service offerings in response to market interest and demand or the development of additional new services.

CABLEVISION SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
1111 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714-3581  
516 803-2300

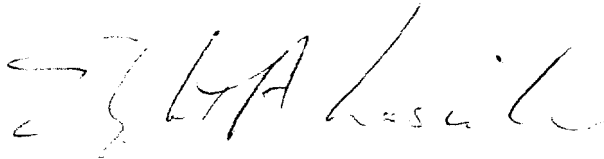
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Cablevision has invested billions of dollars in order to be positioned to offer ITV services, but building the infrastructure and developing the set top box is not the end. Recognizing that the computer experience is different from the television experience for a customer, Cablevision is investing in the development of interactive programming to utilize the digital platform and make the interactive television experience a positive one. The company is actively exploring business arrangements with a variety of applications and content providers – both affiliated and unaffiliated – in order to be able to offer subscribers compelling and user-friendly ITV services and features.

Cablevision also produces programming in high definition television, airing the home games of the New York and New Jersey professional teams and events and concerts from Madison Square Garden and Radio City Music Hall.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Losinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "L".

Elizabeth A. Losinski  
Vice President – Cable Policy

attachment

# Questions on Cable System Capacity and Retransmission Consent Agreements

## Question 1

Please complete the following table with the total number of subscribers served by all of your cable systems and your best estimates of the percentage of your total subscribers in each year that will be served by cable systems of the specified capacity. For each year the column percentages for the five system capacity classes ("Under 500 MHz" to ">750 MHz") should sum to 100.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS SERVED AND % DISTRIBUTION BY SYSTEM CAPACITY**

Cable System Capacity	Yearend 1999		Yearend 2000		Yearend 2001		Yearend 2002		Yearend 2003	
	Homes Passed	%	Homes Passed	%	Homes Passed	%	Homes Passed	%	Homes Passed	%
Cable System Capacity										
>750 MHz										
750 MHz	1,803,059	44%	2,346,354	57%	2,868,453	69%	3,863,766	92%	4,230,025	
Between 550 and 750 MHz										
550 MHz	1,738,815	43%	1,550,387	37%	1,163,768	28%	327,808	8%		0%
Under 500 MHz	528,883	13%	244,922	6%	148,557	4%	18,451	0%		0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,070,757</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,141,663</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,180,778</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,210,025</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,230,025</b>	<b>0%</b>

## Question 2

Please provide, for each of the five capacity classes and for each year, a breakdown of the total MHz usable for downstream transmissions. The breakdown should be based on a representative cable system in each size class, specifically the one with the largest number of subscribers. For the >750, <550, and 550-750 MHz capacity classes, please specify the capacity of the system for which the information is being provided.

If the total downstream capacity does not equal total capacity minus the bandwidth below 54 MHz, please explain the discrepancy. Also please note if any capacity above 54 MHz is used for upstream services. Please provide the total MHz expected to be used for analog video transmission, the total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission, and the total MHz expected to be used for other purposes, and list the anticipated other services. The sum of the total MHz used for analog, digital, and other downstream services should equal total MHz usable for downstream transmissions.

### Year 1999

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*					
750 MHz		696	528	0	12+
550-750 MHz**					
550 MHz		496	496	0	0
< 550 MHz***					

+Identify any other downstream services

**+Cablevision provides high speed data service as well as residential and commercial telephony service.**

**Year 2000**

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*					
750 MHz		696	528	0	12+
550-750 MHz**					
550 MHz		496	496	0	0
< 550 MHz***					

+Identify any other downstream services

**+Cablevision provides high speed data service as well as residential and commercial telephony service.**

**Year 2001**

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*					
750 MHz		696	528	<b>See Cover Letter</b>	
550-750 MHz**					
550 MHz			496	0	0
< 550 MHz***					

**Year 2002**

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*					
750 MHz		696	528	<b>See Cover Letter</b>	
550-750 MHz**					
550 MHz		496	496	0	0
< 550 MHz***					

**Year 2003**

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*					
750 MHz			528	<b>See Cover Letter</b>	
550-750 MHz**					
550 MHz		N/A			
< 550 MHz***					

\* fill in a capacity greater than 750 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the >750 MHz category

\*\* fill in a capacity between 550 and 750 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the 550-750 MHz category

\*\*\* fill in a capacity below 550 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the <550 MHz category

Please explain here any discrepancies between capacity usable for downstream transmissions and total capacity minus the bandwidth below 54 MHz.

### Question 3

For each capacity class and year entered in question 2, please provide (i) information on the digital modulation techniques you intend to use and (ii) a further breakdown of the total MHz expected to be used for downstream digital video transmission. To answer this question, use the same representative cable systems that you used in question 2. What modulation technique do you expect to use (e.g., 64 QAM, 256 QAM)? How many MHz do you anticipate devoting to HDTV transmissions and how many HDTV program streams do you anticipate transmitting in each 6 MHz of spectrum devoted to that purpose? How many MHz do you anticipate devoting to standard definition television program streams and how many such program streams do you anticipate transmitting in each 6 MHz of spectrum devoted to that purpose?

NOTE: If you plan to use different modulation techniques on a single system or on different systems in the same capacity class, please explain below. If the number of HDTV or SDTV program streams per 6 MHz is expected to vary, please indicate a typical figure in the table and explain the range of variation below.

#### YEAR 1999

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions (broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz*		N/A					
750 MHz		0			0	0	
550-750 MHz**		N/A					
550 MHz		0			0	0	
<550 MHz***		0					

**YEAR 2000**

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions( broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz*		N/A					
750 MHz		0		0		0	
550-750 MHz**		N/A					
550 MHz		0		0		0	
<550 MHz***		0		0		0	

**YEAR 2001**

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions( broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz*		N/A					
750 MHz		<b>See Cover Letter</b>	64 QAM	24	0.75	<b>See Cover Letter</b>	7
550-750 MHz**		N/A					
550 MHz		0		0		0	
<550 MHz***		N/A					



**YEAR 2002**

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions (broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz*		N/A					
750 MHz		<b>See Cover Letter</b>	256 QAM	24	1	<b>See Cover Letter</b>	10
550-750 MHz**		N/A					
550 MHz		0		0		0	
<550 MHz***		N/A					

**YEAR 2003**

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions (broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz*		N/A					
750 MHz		<b>See Cover Letter</b>	256 QAM	24	<b>See Below</b>	<b>See Cover Letter</b>	10
550-750 MHz**		N/A					
550 MHz		N/A					
<550 MHz***		N/A					

Please describe here any situations in which you plan to use different modulation techniques on a single system or on different systems in the same capacity class.

If the number of HDTV program streams per 6 MHz is expected to vary, please explain the range of variation here.

**Current high definition television receivers are not capable of receiving QAM modulation. By 2003, such television sets are expected to be available in the market. At such time as there are a sufficient number of QAM modulation receivers in customer homes, 2 program streams could be transmitted in 6 MHz.**

#### Question 4

On Chart 4A below, please list the cable systems and television stations for which you have negotiated retransmission consent agreements that include carriage of digital transmissions by the station. For each television station, please include in parentheses the network affiliation if any. Please include, if known, the capacity of each system in MHz, the Designated Market Area ("DMA") in which the station is located, when digital carriage is scheduled to commence, the modulation technique you intend to use (e.g., 8 VSB, 64 QAM, 256 QAM), the format (480P, 720P, 1080I, something else) of the signal as received from the broadcaster, and the format that you plan to use for retransmission through the system to subscribers.

On Chart 4B below, please provide the best information available at this time on pending retransmission consent negotiations, if possible. If you have pending negotiations with respect to more than 10 systems, please provide information for the five largest and the five smallest systems, measured by number of subscribers.

Note: If you have signed digital retransmission agreements with a television station for more than one cable system, please make a separate entry for each cable system.

Please use additional pages if necessary for response.

#### CHART 4A: COMPLETED RETRANSMISSION CONSENT AGREEMENTS

DMA	Television Station (with affiliation status)	Cable System	System Capacity (MHz)	Date Carriage Commenced or is to Commence	Modulation Technique	Broadcast Transmission Format	Retransmission Format	Number of Stations in DMA now transmitting a digital signal
New York	N/A *							

**CHART 4B: RETRANSMISSION CONSENT AGREEMENTS IN NEGOTIATION**

DMA	Television Station (with affiliation status)	Cable System	System Capacity (MHz)	Date Carriage Commenced or is to Commence	Modulation Technique	Broadcast Transmission Format	Retransmission Format	Number of Stations in DMA now transmitting a digital signal
New York	N/A *							

\* Cablevision carries the following broadcast signals under retransmission consent agreements: WCBS (CBS), WNBC (NBC), WABC (ABC), WNYW (FOX) and WPIX (WB). No agreements require carriage of a digital signal. Cablevision is engaged in no active retransmission consent negotiations at this time.